General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.39 and Add.1)*]

56/100. Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 A of 16 December 1997, 53/1 L of 7 December 1998, 54/96 B of 8 December 1999 and 55/166 of 14 December 2000,

Recalling also all resolutions of the Security Council and all statements by its President relating to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling further the Ceasefire Agreement signed in Lusaka[1] and the Kampala disengagement plan[2] and the obligations of all signatories to those agreements and the obligations deriving from Security Council resolution 1304 (2000),

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all States in the region,

Alarmed at the plight of the civilian population throughout the country, and calling for its protection,

Gravely concerned at the deteriorating economic, social and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular in the eastern Congo, and at the effect of the continued fighting on the inhabitants of the country, especially women and children,

Deeply concerned at the increased rate of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), in particular among women and girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Expressing its deep concern at the dire consequences of the conflict for the humanitarian and human rights situations,

Gravely concerned at the negative impact of war on the promotion of the sustainable and overall development of the country,

[1] S/1999/815, annex.

[2] See S/2000/330 and Corr.1, paras. 21–28.

Urging all parties to respect and protect human rights and respect international humanitarian law, in particular, the Geneva Conventions of 1949[3] and the additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[4]

Deeply concerned at the continued extensive destruction of life and property and the severe damage to infrastructure and the environment suffered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the reports of the illegal exploitation of its natural resources,

Bearing in mind the fact that the Democratic Republic of the Congo hosts thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries, which places a great burden on its limited resources, and hoping that conditions will be created that will facilitate a safe and voluntary return of refugees,

Recalling that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a least developed country with severe economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure and aggravated by the ongoing conflict,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and security and the ability of the country to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and to take effective steps towards the rapid revitalization of the economy, and reaffirming the urgent need to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its damaged economy and in its efforts to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Welcomes* the opening of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue on 15 October 2001, and calls upon all Congolese parties to make every effort to promote the process and ensure the success of a fully inclusive dialogue in a spirit of consensus;

3. *Urges* all parties concerned in the region to cease military activities, cease any support for armed groups and any recruitment, training and use of child soldiers, calls upon those States which have not done so to withdraw from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement,[1] the Kampala disengagement plan[2] and relevant Security Council resolutions, and urges all parties to engage in a process of political dialogue and negotiation and to create the conditions necessary for the speedy and peaceful resolution of the crisis;

4. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue and develop its cooperation with the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other organizations in addressing the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction;

5. *Also encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to pursue sound macroeconomic policies and to promote good governance and the rule of the law, and urges it to exert all efforts for economic recovery and reconstruction despite the ongoing armed conflict;

6. *Stresses* the link between the peace process and the economic recovery of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, welcomes economic reforms undertaken by

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[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[5] A/56/269.

its Government, and encourages it to carry on with this process for the benefit of the entire Congolese people;

7. *Also stresses* the importance of the restoration of river traffic, welcomes in this regard the reopening of the Congo and the Oubangi Rivers, and expresses its support for the establishment of the Congo River Basin Commission;

8. *Renews its urgent appeal* to the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to continue to keep under consideration the special needs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

9. *Welcomes* the continued and increased efforts of the Secretary-General, the United Nations system and its agencies, programmes and funds in ensuring that the gender perspective is mainstreamed in the reconstruction agenda of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

10. *Urges* all parties to respect fully international humanitarian law and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel, and in that regard stresses that the reopening of the Kisangani-Kindu rail and river link would facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as the resupplying of humanitarian personnel;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide support to the humanitarian relief activities within the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

12. *Invites* Governments to continue to provide support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To continue to consult urgently with regional leaders, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, about ways to bring about a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict, in accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions;

(*b*) To continue to consult with regional leaders, in coordination with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, in order to convene, when appropriate, an international conference on peace, security and development in Central Africa and in the Great Lakes region, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, to address the problems of the region in a comprehensive manner;

(*c*) To keep under review the economic situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to promoting participation in and support for a programme of financial and material assistance to the country to enable it to meet its urgent needs in terms of economic recovery and reconstruction;

(*d*) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution.

87th plenary meeting
14 December 2001